NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in row to Gamplete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property	
historic name (former) Pembroke High School	
other names/site number <u>Indian Education Resource Center</u>	
2. Location	
street & numberIntersection of Highway 711 and State Roa	ad 1561 NZAnot for publication
city or townPembroke	N/A vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Robeson	code 155 zip code 28372
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this proper nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional commendation of the certified of the statewide st	rty be considered significant
In my opinion, the property \square meets \square does not meet the National Register criteria. (comments.)	See continuation sheet for additional
	See continuation sheet for additional
comments.)	See continuation sheet for additional
Signature of certifying official/Title State or Federal agency and bureau	See continuation sheet for additional
Signature of certifying official/Title State or Federal agency and bureau 4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that the property is: I entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register	
Signature of certifying official/Title State or Federal agency and bureau 4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that the property is: I entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the	Entered in the
Signature of certifying official/Title State or Federal agency and bureau 4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that the property is: Centered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the determined not eligible for the	Entered in the

(former) Pembroke	High	Schoo1
Name of Property		_

Robeson County, North Carolina County and State

Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the	count.)	
building(s)	Contributing Noncontributing		
☐ district	1	buildings	
		_	
☐ object			
roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources pre in the National Register	eviously listed	
	-0-		
	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		
	Recreation-& Culture- Museum		
	Education- School		
	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)		
	foundation Concrete		
	walls Brick		
	roof Asphalt		
	other		
	(Check only one box) Studding(s) district site structure object roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)	(Check only one box) (Do not include previously listed resources in the list of district site site object	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. St	atement of Significance	
(Mark '	cable National Register Criteria 'x'' in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
for National Register listing.)		Education
X A	Property is associated with events that have made	Ethnic Heritage: Native American
	a significant contribution to the broad patterns of	
	our history.	
□в	Property is associated with the lives of persons	
	significant in our past.	
	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics	
	of a type, period, or method of construction or	
	represents the work of a master, or possesses	
	high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack	Period of Significance
	individual distinction.	1939 - 1945
□D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
Crite	ria Considerations	Significant Dates
	"x" in all the boxes that apply.)	1939
Prope	erty is:	
· .		
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for		
	religious purposes.	Significant Person
□в	removed from its original location.	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
	a hirthalaga ar graya	N/A
	a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation
☐ D a cemetery.		N/A
□ E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
□F	a commemorative property.	
ПС	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance	Architect/Builder
	within the past 50 years.	Unknown
	·	
Manue	Alter Obstance of Charlette and	
(Expla	Itive Statement of Significance in the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	
9. M	ajor Bibliographical References	
	ography ne books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one	e or more continuation sheets.)
Previ	ous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
	preliminary determination of individual listing (36	☐ State Historic Preservation Office
	CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register	☐ Other State agency☐ Federal agency
	previously determined eligible by the National	☐ Local government
	Register	☐ University
	designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	☐ Other Name of repository:
L)	#	raine of repository.
	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	

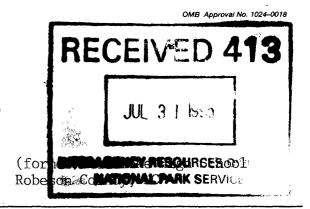
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property Less than One Acre	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1/7 6 6 4 4 8 0 3 8 3 9 5 0 0 Zone Easting Northing 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Zone Easting Northing See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	= 555 55 Mindailon Snoot
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Susan Holladay	
organization Consultant	date <u>June 1, 1995</u>
street & number 504 S 3rd Street	telephone(910) 763-8631
city or town Wilmington	state N.C. zip code 28401
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the pro	perty's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having	large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the pro-	perty.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	
name	
street & number	telephone
city or town	state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Pembroke High School is located approximately one block west of Pembroke State University at the northeast corner of Highway 711 and State Route 1561. The south side elevation, which is also the facade, faces Highway 711, locally known as West 3rd Street. The east and north property lines are shared with Pembroke State University, the former location of the high school. On the six-acre site, the gymnasium (Building B on Exhibit A), was erected in 1953 and (Building C on Exhibit A), the cafeteria, in 1957. (See Exhibit A) The school complex is sited on relatively flat land, just north of the railroad tracks that run east and west through town parallel to Highway 711. The landscaping of the public side of the 1939 building features a well-tended lawn with shrubbery and a row of mature deciduous trees that impart a campus-like feeling. There is a semi-circular drive on the south side of the school that creates a formal entry to the historic building.

The nominated setting of the building is bounded by a service drive on the east side that extends north and northwest off the front semi-circular drive. A paved walkway intersects the service drive and runs northwest, then southwest, where it joins a V-plan walkway, the westernmost part of which joins the west wing of the school building. The outer perimeters of this series of walkways form the north and west boundaries of the setting, which is completed by an arbitrary east-west line from the intersection of the walkway and western elevation of the building to the edge of State Route 1561. The south boundary of the setting is the edge of Highway 711.

The (former) Pembroke High School is a solidly impressive one story brick school building with a very basic and functional layout. The plan is completely symmetrical, consisting of a main central entrance that opens into a north-south hallway that terminates at the arched entry of a small lobby that leads into the auditorium block on the north elevation. Wings on either side of the main entrance extend east and west. Each wing contains a central corridor with five classrooms and one bathroom. Following its vacancy for almost a decade, the building underwent an estimated \$190,000 renovation in late fall 1992 in which all labor and material were donated. Reports revealed that the structure was in surprisingly good condition, and the majority of the restoration involved replacing glass in the original wooden sash and repainting the interior. The plan of the building was not altered, and most of its original features remain entirely intact. The importance of the renovation lies in the fact that it was a total community effort that once again

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(former) Pembroke High School Robeson County, NC

Description (continued)

emphasized the cultural importance of the school. It is equally important to stress that none of the historic integrity of the building has been compromised through previous vandalism or its recent renovation.

The structure is built entirely of brick in the common bond pattern and is trimmed with sandstone entablatures, watertables and sills. It consists of five rows of stretchers to one row of headers. An asphalt shallow hip roof covers the building and it rests on a raised foundation defined by watertables. The south-facing facade is dominated by a central recessed entrance pavilion approached by five concrete steps. The double-leaf wooden doors are surmounted by a three-part transom composed of multiple panes and flanked by sidelights. The brick parapet over the main entrance is supported by sandstone inscribed with "Pembroke High School." To the east of the main entrance is a brass plaque that reads:

Federal Works Agency
Public Works Administration
John M. Carmody
Federal Works Administration
Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
Pembroke High School 1939

The east and west wings are slightly set back from the entrance pavilion. The fenestration throughout the wings is composed of double-hung wooden sash in a nine-over-nine pattern. It is arranged in paired groups of three sash within wooden surrounds with sandstone sills.

The north elevations of the wings are identical to the main ones except for two small dormers between the two pairs of triple sash. The east and west elevations are blind except for double-leaf wooden doors surmounted by sixteen-pane transoms under a stoop.

The auditorium block extends from the center of the north elevation about 75 feet. The east side has an entrance with a concrete wheelchair ramp, while there is a standard doorway on the west side. There is a chimney that services a coal-burning furnace on the west side of the auditorium, with a small opening for access into the boiler room north of the doorway. The east and west

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(former) Pembroke High School Robeson County, NC

Description (continued)

elevations of the auditorium have two sets of paired windows that recently have been partially covered with plywood.

The interior reflects much of the same symmetrical composition of the exterior of the building. The main entrance and hallway of the corridors have the original hardwood floors. The plastered ceilings are about fourteen feet high and the door openings to all of the rooms are approximately eight feet, including the glass transoms.

To the east of the entrance foyer lies the former principal's office and to the west a former administrative office. Each corridor is introduced by a very plain plastered archway from the foyer. There is a matching archway leading into the auditorium block. The foyer walls are plastered above the plain wooden wainscoting. The auditorium is introduced by a lobby that is distinguished by dark-stained beaded board on the walls and ceiling. The lobby is flanked by small offices.

Beyond the lobby is the large auditorium that is the focal point of the interior plan. A former stage rises about six feet from the floor and is covered in hardwood. Wooden steps with flanking platforms allow access to the stage on its east and west sides. The stage area has been enclosed with modular plywood panels and houses an extensive exhibit of Native American artifacts. On the east and west sides of the former performing area there are entrances to the stage and what were dressing rooms. A suspended ceiling with light panels has been installed in this room, the area is now used for storage.

Again, the original features of the building, such as the window frames, windows above the doorway and dormers are all intact. Their historic integrity has not been challenged over the fifty-six year existence of the structure.

Statement of Significance

The Pembroke High School located at the intersection of Hwy 711 and State Road 1561 in Pembroke, N.C. is a Public Works Administration project whose sole purpose was to house a high

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OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Statement of Significance (continued)

school for Native American students in Robeson County. After almost a century of educational negligence towards the Indian community, the need for Pembroke High School was recognized locally by the Robeson County School Board, and supported by Federal building programs of the New Deal Era. The building project was launched in 1938 after much discussion by the Robeson County School Board about the specific need for a Native American High School in Pembroke. It opened for classes in the Fall of 1939. The specific cultural affiliation of Pembroke High School marks its unique contribution to the Native American community of Robeson County, both during its period of significance and today, as it is still being used by The Indian Education Resource Center, a division of the Robeson County School Board dedicated to educating school children about Indian customs, artistic expression and lifestyle. The former schoolhouse houses Native American artifacts, artwork and hold educational seminars for school children in the area. The history of the Lumbee Indians is kept alive by the presence of this structure and the efforts of Indian Solidarity Inc., an organization concerned with the preservation of local Native American history and culture. Its importance lies not only in its unique historical ethnic affiliation, but also in that its current use is dedicated to much of its original purpose.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND EDUCATION AND ETHNIC HERITAGE CONTEXT

At the turn of this century, public education programs in North Carolina were, at best, in their infant stages. However, with the election of Governor Charles B. Aycock in 1900 as Governor of North Carolina, the previously apathetic state of education was about to change. With Governor Aycock came a new push for the improvement of public education that had been neglected during most of the nineteenth century. Efforts aimed at improving public education had come to a halt with the onset of the Civil War. "After the war, schools became part of the bitter political struggles of the Reconstruction." Hindered by poverty, poor transportation, and post-war devestation, North Carolina's public schools suffered from indifference and the popularity of a laissez- faire politics. During the 1890s, however, several progressive educators rose to prominence. Men like Charles McIver, C.B. Aycock, and James Y. Joyner entered public life with a professed support for a more effective state-supported school system. They believed that economic and social progress in North Carolina was hindered by widespread illiteracy. The growing industrialization of the United States illustrated to these supporters of the New South the need for a vastly improved public education system because, as noted in Jim Sumner's article, "... an illiterate work force was ill equipped to

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Statement of Significance (continued)

deal with the demands of industrialization."² Governor Aycock led a firm and successful campaign based on a platform of providing universal education in North Carolina.

It was more than simply the education of young white males that fueled Aycock's resolve. He strongly advocated what he called universal education, which was the right of all men and women to a publically supported education. The Governor described his program as an effort "... to open the door of hope to the disfranchised negro and throw to the white man the challenge: 'Live up to your heritage and educate yourself and your children, or abdicate your citizenship.' "³
Aycock's preliminary plans for education were composed of four major policies. They were:

- a) A four-month school term for every child;
- b) Construction of simple schoolhouses;
- c) Special schools for the handicapped and
- d) Expansion of teacher training in colleges and in the University of North Carolina.⁴ Each of these four policies were wisely executed and set the stage for educational success in this state in the following decades.

The effects of Aycock's plans were widespread and affected children in every county in the state. This was especially true in Robeson County, with its large Native American populaton. In 1885 the Lumbee Indians of Robeson County had no public schools despite the substantial amount of property ownership and population of Lumbee in the region. In addition, the state constitution was revised in 1835 to legally prohibited the Lumbee children from attending white schools. Finally, by the start of the Civil War, the Indians were forbidden to have their own schools because of discrimination that arose from racial violence.⁵

The turning point for Indian education in Robeson County appeared with the help of State Representative Hamilton McMillan in 1863. He completed a genealogical survey of the Lumbee Indians that linked their heritage to the tribes of the Lost Colony. Ultimately, McMillan's research led to support of his thesis by the General Assembly, and in 1885 legislation provided the Lumbee Tribe with their own public school. Section two of this law provided

"That said Indians and their descendents shall have separate schools for their children, school committees of their own race and color, and shall be allowed to select teachers of their own choice, subject to the rules

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(former) Pembroke High School Robeson County, NC

Statement of Significance (continued)

and regulations as are applicable to all teachers in the general school law." ⁶ Robeson County was unique in its tri-racial school system under which the Indian students were educated seperately from the white and black students. Likewise, blacks and whites were educated seperately. By the turn of the century, Thompson reported, "Regardless of the prevailing apathy toward education and the numerous hurdles encountered by Indians, some progress was being made in Indian schools."⁷At that time, over 1000 Indian children were of school age in Robeson county, therefore the need for school buildings was undeniable. "As a result, seven frame school houses were provided for the Indians, and \$503 was appropriated to operate their public schools for the year 1885." In the two years following, the Indian Normal School in Robeson County was established and allotted \$500 a year for operation. The building, located in Pembroke, was built from public subscription funds and opened for classes in 1887. It emerged as Pembroke State University and was the only instituion of high learning solely for Native Americans in the United States. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, progress in Native American public schools in the state depended upon recruitment of teachers trained at the Normal School.¹⁰ In 1895, the number of school age children in Robeson County increased to 1,424, and according to Thompson, "The percent of increase in attendence for the Indians at school was much greater than that of either whites or blacks."11 For many years the University housed the local high school and elementary school, however, the elementary school was moved to another facility after 1926. The high school remained a part of Pembroke Normal School until 1939, the same year that Pembroke High school began classes in its new brick building for grades eight through eleven. 12

The planning and construction of the new high school building took three years. In 1936, as a result of expansion plans for the Indian Normal school, the Robeson County Board of Education was reminded of their responsibility to provide adequate facilities for an Indian high school. Since the Normal School could no longer supply a space for the high school, the Board of Education was obliged to construct a brick, ten-room schoolhouse on the present six-acre tract of land for the purpose of educating the Indians of Robeson County at the high school level. The land for the new high school in Pembroke was purchased by the Robeson County Board of Education on March 14, 1930 from W.H. Lowry and his wife Crossie Lowry. Construction on the site did not begin until 1938, when funds were received from the Public Works Administration, as denoted by the plaque on the south entrance. The first graduating class of Pembroke High School was in the year 1940. The 1939 building was used as a high school until 1968 and shortly after this time it

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was designated for use as a middle school and finally in 1991, was declared surplus and abandoned by the county school system.¹⁵

Cliff Sampson, Chairman of Indian Solidarity Incorporared, and his organization petitioned the Robeson County Commissioners for control of the property, and in October of 1991 the building was leased to the organization by the Robeson County Board of Education, which still officially owns the structure. Indian Solidarity, an organization dedicated to the interests of the Indian community, in turn leased the property to Indian Education, a division of the Robeson County School System. 16 A public concern began in early 1992 for the old high school and in March there was a community outcry about its deteriorating condition. Vandalism had become a frequent problem so the Indian population made a public plea for the restoration of the building and its conversion into a community center for the town."17 During the initial discussions about the fate of the historic school there was widespread disaggreement about the responsibility for funding a rehabilitation project. The Robeson County School Board members were reportedly concerned about the vandalism to the building, but asked the county commisssioners to look to elsewhere for money for repairs. 18 Restoration finally began in late 1992 with funding that Dr. Woods, director of the school system's Indian Education Resource Center, received from the federal government to run her program. Most of the materials needed for the renovation project were purchased with this money. The remainder of the materials such as the glass and paint, were donated by local businesses such as the LOF Glass Company of Pembroke, A member of Indian Education was a Probation Officer for Robeson County who proposed that the school project become a community service site for many public offenders. Thus all of the labor was was performed at no charge to Indian Education by community service workers.¹⁹

Currently the Indian Education Resource Center, as the Pembroke High School is now known, leases the structure from the Robeson County Board of Education. Its purpose is to educate school chidren about the history and contributions made by Native Americans to the United States, and specifically south-central North Carolina. One of the most important missions of the Center is to preserve artifacts relative to Native American history and culture. The school now provides space for local art galleries and former public school classrooms are still used for instruction. The value of this building to the Native American community in Robeson County is immeasurable. The former high school is continuously used for community and cultural activities involving school

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Statement of Significance (continued)

children of all races. It is an invaluable source of local as well as national, Native American history. The present use of the former high school as a community as well as educational facility, reflects the tradition that developed in the 1920s and 1930s that a school building is a community resource. The continuing existence of Pembroke High School was, and remains, an active sign of ethnic diversity in its community.

NOTES

1 Sumner, Jim, "A Brief History of North Carolina's Early Twentieth Century Public School System," (North Carolina Historic Preservation Office Newsletter, Spring, 1990), 3.

2"A Brief History of North Carolina's Early Twentieth Century Public School System", 3-4.

3House, Robert B. "Aycock and Universal Education," 211-212. <u>North Carolina Historical Review</u>, XXXVII, No. 2 (April, 1960), hereinafter cited as House, "Aycock and Universal Education."

4House, "Aycock and Universal Education", 214.

5Vernon Ray Thompson, "A History of the Education of the Lumbee Indians of Robeson County, North Carolina from 1885-1970," (Unpublished Dissertation, University of Miami, Miami, 1973), 1-2. Hereinafter cited as Thompson, "A History of the Education of the Lumbee Indians Of Robeson County, North Carolina from 1885-1970."

6Thompson, "A History of the Education of the Lumbee Indians of Robeson County. North Carolina from 1885-1970", 41-42.

7Thompson, "A History of the Education of the Lumbee Indians of Robeson County, North Carolina From 1885-1970", 49.

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8Thompson, "A History of the Education of the Lumbee Indians of Robeson County, North Carolina From 1885-1970", 49.

9Thompson, "A History of the Education of the Lumbee Indians of Robeson County, North Carolina from 1885-1970", 42-44.

10Thompson, "A History of the Education of the Lumbee Indians of Robeson County, North Carolina from 1885-1970", 45.

11Thompson,"A History of the Education of Lumbee Indians of Robeson County, North Carolina from 1885-1970", 49.

12Thompson, "A History of the Education of the Lumbee Indians of Robeson County, North Carolina from 1885-1970", 47.

13Thompson, "A History of the Education of the Lumbee Indians of Robeson County, North Carolina from 1885-1970", 53.

14Robeson County Deed Book, pages 274-275, 1930-1931.

15"Saving Old Schoolhouses," Fayetteville Observer-Times, March 15, 1992.

16Information supplied by Cliff Sampson, Jr.

17Lorry Wilkie, "Group Wants To Save Indians' First High School," <u>Fayetteville Observer Times</u>, March 6, 1992.

18Lorry Wilkie, "Preserving Indian School Causes A Stir," <u>Fayetteville Observer</u>, March 13, 1992.

19Information supplied by Clifton Sampson, Jr.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

20Connee Brayboy, "Native American Resource Center: Sharing History and Culture," Carolina Indian Voice, September 16, 1993.

Major Bibliographical References

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Brayboy, Connee. "Native American Resource Center: Sharing History and Culture." <u>Carolina Indian Voice</u>, September 16, 1993.

House, Robert B. "Aycock and Universal Education." North Carolina Historical Review. XXXVII, No. 2 (April, 1960).

Robeson County Deed Book, page 274-275. Robeson County Register of Deeds, Lumberton, N.C.

"Saving Old Schoolhouses." Fayetteville Observer Times, March 15, 1992.

Sampson, Clifton, Interviews.

Sumner, Jim. "A Brief History of North Carolina's Early Twentieth Century Public School System." (North Carolina Historic Preservation Office Newsletter, Spring, 1990).

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(former) Pembroke High School Robeson County, NC

Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Thompson, Vernon Ray. "A History of the Education of the Lumbee Indians of Robeson County, North Carolina from 1885-1970." (Unpublished Dissertation from University of Miami, Miami, 1973).

Wilkie, Lorry. "GroupWants to Save Indians' First High School." <u>Fayetteville Observer Times</u>, March 6, 1992.

Wilkie, Lorry. "Preserving Indian School Causes a Stir." Fayetteville Observer, March 13, 1992.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated parcel are delineated by the heavy line on the accompanying map marked "Exhibit A".

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries for the (former) Pembroke High School were chosen to provide an appropriate setting for the 1939 school and to exclude the two later school buildings on the same lot.

EXHIBIT A PROJECTY LINE (former) Pembroke High School ROBESON COUNTY, NC @ 8/10" = 100' PAYED PLAY AREA A Tindicates angle and # of photograph SERVICE DRIVE 1960 1958 Building A is Pembroke High School Momination -parcel boundary HWY W 3Rd st. Also KNOWN AS OKIGINAL NAME Pembroke High Schoo ned Bronarty No Scale Acreage Page / of 3 of Site C

Name of School DEMOROKE MIPPLE

Street Name/No.

Name of Admin. Unit

Name of Building

4. MADIAN

Date of Drawing

1 AUGUST 1980

5 C4

Unit and School No

